

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /062 W

-----251101Z 035252 /21

R 250750Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3343

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, BG, IN

SUBJECT: REACTION TO FAILURE OF FARAKKA TALKS

REF: DACCA 0396

1. EDITORIAL REACTION AND POLITICIANS' STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE FAILURE OF THE FARAKKA TALKS, WHILE NOT PARTICULARLY STRIDENT, HAVE PLACED THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAILURE FULLY ON INDIA.

2. MOST OF THE DAILIES, BOTH BENGALI AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE, PRINTED EDITORIALS SUGGESTING THAT INDIA IN FACT NEVER HAD BEEN SERIOUS ABOUT A SETTLEMENT. THE BANGLADESH TIMES, FOR EXAMPLE, WROTE THAT "THE PROCESS OF NEATION OF THE FORM AND THE SPIRIT OF THE UN RECOMMENDATIONS HAD STARTED WEEKS BEFORE THE TALKS FINALLY PROVEN UNSUCCESSFUL." IN PARTICULAR, "THE FORM WAS VIOLATED WHEN THE VENUE WAS CHANGED FROM DACCA TO DELHI." THE TIMES ASKED RHETORICALLY: HOW COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AN ISSUE WHICH CONCERN THE LIVELIHOOD OF 25 MILLION PEOPLE BE "FRIVOLOUSLY CAST INTO A MEDLEY OF DISCUSSIONS THAT WERE CONVENED ONLY TO BE ADJOURNED?" MAY OF THE EDITORIALS EXPRESSED THE COMMON THEME THAT AT LEAST NOW THE WORLD UNDERSTANDS THE PROBLEM AND "THE HURDLES TO A JUST SHARING OF THE WATER HAVE BECOME OBVIOUS." SEVERAL OF THE EDITORIALS EXPRESSED AN UNUSUALLY UPBEAT CON-

CLUSION: THE TIMES, ECHOING ADMIRAL KHAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS, SAID: "THE FAILURE OF THE TALKS MUST NOT LEAVE US DISPIRITED...THERE MUST NOW BE A RESURGENCE OF DOMESTIC EFFORTS AT DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXISTENT WATER RESOURCES."

3. PREDICTABLE, POLITICIANS, MOSTLY REPRESENTING THE LEFT, CONDEMNED INDIA'S INTRANSIGENCE AT THE TALKS. THE MOST AGGRESSIVE REMARK CAME FROM MAULANA ABDUL MATIN AND SHAMSUL ALAM KHAN, PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY RESPECTIVELY OF THE MINISCULE BANGLADESH LABOUR PARTY, WHO CALLED UPON THE INDIAN PEOPLE AND THE WORLD PUBLIC "TO BUILD UP RESISTANCE AGAINST THE AGGRESSIVE AND EXPANSIONIST POLICY OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT."

4. TO COMPLETE THE UNIVERSAL CONDEMNATION OF INDIA, THE BD PRESS CARRIED A QUOTE FROM THE VISITING CHINESE PRESS DELEGATION NOW TOURING THE COUNTRY. THE CHINESE REPORTEDLY REITERATED THEIR SUPPORT TO BANGLADESH FOR "SAFEGUARDING ITS NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY...CONCERNING THE SHARING OF GANGES WATERS."

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE PRESS UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNED INDIA, THE TONE IS NEITHER AS STRIDENT NOR AS BELLIGERENT AS WE HAVE SEEN. OF PARTICULAR NOTE IS THE CONCLUSION THAT IT IS TIME NOW FOR BANGLADESH TO SOLVE ITS OWN PROBLEMS, A NEW TONE ON THE FARAKKA ISSUE. PERHAPS THE DISAPPOINTMENT IS MUTED BY THE POSSIBILITY, EXPRESSED BY ONE POLITICAL OBSERVER CLOSE TO THE MUSLIM LEAGUE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT WITH THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN DINDA, NO COMPROMISE COULD HAVE BEEN REACHED. AFTER THE ELECTIONS, HE SAID, TALKS MAY AGAIN BE POSSIBLE.
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Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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